(b) whether they are aware that the educational attainments of the said communities are far too low when compared with those of forward Christian communities; and

(c) whether they have proposed any scheme for the renewal of full fee concession granted to them in 1924?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: *(a)* Yes, but no case of discontinuance of pupils of the communities for this reason has been reported.

(b) No.

(c) No; but the general revision of the fee concession rules, in the light of the 1941 Census figures for population and literacy, is engaging the attention of Government.

Complaint against the Manager, St. Phelomena English Middle School, Koonammavu.

271. *MR. E. K MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Public Instruction has received any complaint, against the Manager, St. Phelomena English Middle School, Koonammavu, in Parur Taluk, from any of the staff of the said school; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: *(a)* Yes.

(b) The matter is being enquired into.

Medicines for the Medical Department.

272. *MR. R. MADHAVAN NAIR *(Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapally)*: Will the Government be pleased to state;

(a) the total cost of medicines purchased for the Medical Department for the year 1121;

(b) whether the medicines purchased for 1121 have been distributed to all the Government hospitals and dispensaries in the State; and

(c) the names of hospitals and dispensaries to which no distribution of medicines was made from the stock for 1121?

DR. S. JOHN: *(a)* Nearly 3½ lakhs of rupess.

(b) Yes.

(c) None.

Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

273. *MR. THEROOR S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether examinations are held before granting promotions to Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons;

(*b*) if so, whether they have received any report from the authorities concerned that the examinations so held serve any useful purpose or not, if so what it is, and

(*c*) whether any practical training is given in some central hospital for these doctors before the grant of promotions and if not why not?

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DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) Yes,

(*b*) No.

(*c*) the answer to the first part is in the affirmative; the 2nd part of the question does not arise in view of the answer to the first part.

MR. THEROOR S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI: May I know from the Surgeon-General whethes he is aware that practical training before the grant of promotions does not serve any useful purpose?

DR. S. JOHN: I do not think so.

Hospital Nurses.

274. *MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the reason why a condition is imposed on hospital nurses not to marry during the couse of their service?

DR. S. JOHN: It is not in the best interest of hospitals or other Nursing Services to employ young married women with family responsibilities.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has the Surgeon-General received any petition from the nurses with regard to the change of this rule?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Has the Government considered the petition?

TO DR. S. JOHN: Yes, Sir, Government were kind enough to reduce the number of years from 9 to 7 for marriage.

Admission to Medical College.

275. *MR. V. MADHAVAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many applications were received this year by Government for selection of candidates for admission to the Medical Courses in the College at Madras and Calcutta;

(*b*) how many applications were received from candidates belonging to the Ezhava community; and

(*c*) how many Ezhava applicants were selected;

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) 76.

(*b*) 6.

(*c*) None.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Part (*c*) of the question is "How many Ezhava applicants were selected" and the answer is "None". May I know the reason for not taking any Ezhava student?

DR. S. JOHN: There is no reason at all. It all depends upon so many things. It is not only the marks that count for the selection of a candidate. A man might have passed as first in the Presidency. But he must have general appearance, efficiency and pluck. All these things are necessary for a candidate being selected.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know how these things are determined?

DR. S. JOHN: It is as a result of the interview and from the certificates the Surgeon-General used to get from the Heads of educational institutions.

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